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Virginia Apgar, M.D.
Box 2000
White Plains, New York

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Dear Dr. Apgar:

Today I watched you on the Phil Donahue show over the Jacksonville, Florida station. I was so impressed by your presentation and your "down to earth" approach to the complex problems and terminology of genetics. I am sure that many lay persons in the television audience learned a great deal from your interview.

For ten years, I was a Directress of a private center for handicapped children. In this work, I encountered many parents who asked similar questions that were directed to you from the audience during today's show. I hope that my answers came close to yours and that the parents left my office with as much hope and knowledge as you encourage within people. I regret that I didn't have your new book as a reference manual to use in my work. I am writing some of the parents in the Louisville, Kentucky area where I worked and am suggesting that they get a copy of the book mentioned on the Donahue show this morning.

My husband was a fellow at the University of Louisville and studied for his fellowship year in genetics and retardation under Dr. Bernard Weisskopf, formally of Johns Hopkins. My husband and I met you in Dublin, Ireland in June, 1970 at the International Irish-American Pediatric Meeting. We will never forget how gracious you were to us and how kind you were to speak with us during the tea-time breaks. The lecture you gave was most impressive. That trip and seminar was the highlight of my husband's long medical training.

Today my husband is a pediatrician in private practice. He is working very closely with the local Birth Defects Council and the National Foundation programs. In his own way, he is contributing to the work you started and support today.

I was amused when you commented this morning that a physician's child is apt to have an Apgar Score of 11. When our daughter was born three years ago, she not only scored 11; but also left the delivery room with a pink ribbon in her hair!! By coincidence, my husband was the resident on duty that night and was assigned to attend delivery, much against his planning. However, it was the happiest night in his life to be there.

We are anxious to read your new book and hope you will continue to write for the many worried parents of newborn children.

Yours truly,
Joan Henderson
(Mrs.) Joan Henderson